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CZECHOSLOVAK RADIOBROADCAST JAMMING STATIONS

[Comment: This report is an exploitation of Radio Free Europe Item No 1086/55, 19 February 1955, which discusses radiobroadcast jamming stations in the Prague area. Source of the item is a 52-year-old former Czechoslovak postal official, who heard of the stations described herein from a former colleague who was an official of the Postal Radio Headquarters in Prague. The date of observation of this report is 1952.]

Listening to Radio Free Europe and other Western broadcasts is not forbidden in Czechoslovakia, but it is greatly discouraged. Communist Party members may be expelled from the party for listening to these broadcasts. To make listening to Western broadcasts as difficult as possible, the authorities are continually increasing the use of jamming stations.

In 1952, the jamming stations listed below were constructed in the vicinity of Prague.

Jamming Stations for Medium-Wave Broadcasts

1. The Strasnice transmitter.
2. The jamming station in Satalice. This station is located north of the village of Satalice near the Prague-Mlada Boleslav highway. The station's towers can be seen from the highway. The building in which the station is housed is not new; before World War II, it housed a station broadcasting on the 5,100-meter band. This station was used by the CTK (Ceskoslovenska tiskova kancelar, Czechoslovak Press Agency). The building is not guarded. One mechanic is always on duty at the station; the mechanics work 8 hour shifts.

Jamming Stations for Short-Wave Broadcasts

1. The station in Jenec, near Prague. This station is located in a one-story house in a field, approximately 2 kilometers northeast of a beacon which is part of Ruzyně Airport (this airport extends to Jenec). The jamming station is approximately 1,200 meters from the Prague-Chomutov highway, on the right side to a traveler heading toward Chomutov. The station has four towers and a power of 2 kilowatts, and is attended by one mechanic. The station formerly served Ruzyně Airport.
2. The station in Kbely. This is the oldest radio station in Prague and has a power of 2 kilowatts. It began broadcasting in 1923, and is now used for jamming.
3. Five or six jamming stations in Podebrady. These stations stand on a plot of ground approximately 15 hectares in area, north of Podebrady, and can be seen on the right side of the highway by a traveler heading toward Nove Benatky. Each of the stations has a power of 10 kilowatts. When one of the stations is tuned to one particular frequency, it can jam broadcasts on this frequency throughout the nation.
4. The station near Mochov, near Prague. This station transmits with a power of 10 kilowatts. Its precise location is not known to the source.
5. The station in Mukarov. This station transmits with a power of 3 kilowatts. Its precise location is not known to the source.

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6. The station in Horelice near Dusniky. This station transmits with a power of 5 kilowatts. Its precise location is not known to the source. One of the mechanics regularly on duty at the station is named Krepelka (fnu). He is 35 years old, married, and lives in Prague-Pankrac.

7. The Monitor station in Krc, near Prague, which indirectly also serves jamming purposes. Its official title is the KSR (Kontrolni sluzba radiotelegrafni, Radiotelegraphic Control Station). The station is located in a villa in the center of a large garden situated between the railroad station in Krc and the Masaryk Homes (Masarykovy domy). The villa formerly housed a horticultural school. The station monitors Western broadcasts. It also determines any faults of irregularities in jamming, and instructs the Construction Office of the Czechoslovak Post Office (Stavebni urad ceskoslovenske posty) No 3 on how to adjust the jamming emissions so as to be tuned precisely on the same frequency as the Western station which is to be jammed. This station has a military guard; its employees have security clearance and are bound to secrecy. The existence of this station is considered a military secret. The source knows two of the 12 persons employed at the station. They are Hrebik (fnu), aged 40, and Bohuslav Sirlo, a 50-year-old, prewar Communist. Sirlo has a private transmitter and broadcasts from his home under an amateur license. Prior to World War II, both men were employed at the Radiotelegraphic Center (radiotelegrafni ustredna) in Prague II, Bredovska ulice, in the main post office building.

Technical Details of Jamming

The jamming stations discussed above are all connected with the Construction Office of the Czechoslovak Post Office No 3, in the main post office building in Prague II, Bredovska ulice, on the fourth floor (formerly the Radiotelegraphic Center). This office contains transmitters (microphone and translator [sic]), each of which serves one of the jamming stations. The transmitters are connected to their respective jamming stations by cables running from Jindriska ulice. These transmitters were formerly used as radiotelegraph transmitters by the Czechoslovak Post Office. The jamming is achieved by sounds played into the microphone by phonograph records. The records carry the noises of various machines.

The jamming is in the charge of Kejr (fnu), a 50-year-old former employee of the Radio Center (radio-ustredna) of the Czechoslovak Post Office, which now bears the title Construction Office of the Czechoslovak Post Office No 3 [sic]. Kejr spent World War II in a concentration camp. He personally records the noises of machines at the CKD [Ceskomoravska Kolben-Danek] Plant. In 1953, he developed a new idea. He had a Prague recording studio record various old phonograph records in reverse order and now uses this music in the jamming. Kejr says of himself, "I manufacture noise."

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